

NSC BRIEFING

12 February 1958

TUNISIA (short)

I. French bombing has had these reactions in Tunis.

- A. Virtual besieging of all French troops (25,000). *Ship attempting to leave Bizerte fired on with small arms.*
- B. Tunisian ambassador to Paris recalled.
- C. *Tunis* Bourguiba likely to make public demand for French troop withdrawal *at UN Security Council*

~~D. After hesitation, Tunis will ask for Security Council action.~~

25X1X6

II. ~~B~~ Bourguiba in control + both sides seek to curtail incidents. [REDACTED] that bombing

was done without authority of Paris.

25X1X6

III. Arab states gave wide propaganda play to bombing and there ~~will be~~ *has been* some anti-US reaction, *because of US-made aircraft used in bombing*

IV. Moscow will apparently exploit bombing to promote disunity in NATO, promote USSR as champion of Afro-Asian nationalism.

V. Algerian rebellion is now internationalized.

A. UN border patrol is possibility.

B. Bourguiba will review his strongly pro-Western policy.

VI. French predicament will boost Algerian rebel morale and increases likelihood of large-scale spring offensive. *Rebels have pledged support of Tunisia*